

THE MARCH COLLECTION.

In years past our people have been giving but sparingly to the March collection for the cause of publication. Possibly this has been from a feeling that this cause has a commercial side, which makes it less needy.

At the present, there is a need which ought not to be overlooked. It is, first, the maintenance of the superintendents and the secretary of Sunday school work. They are busy in stimulating the work of our schools, and with good effect. Then as new schools are established there is the need of helping them with supplies of literature. And the more schools we establish, the more will be the need of literature. Let these facts be kept in mind as we contribute to this cause.

BE YE STEDFAST.

Enthusiasm and steadiness do not, as a rule, go hand in hand. They ought, however, to be joined as much as possible. The enthusiasm will take away the dullness of steady routine, and the steadiness will keep the fire of the enthusiastic spirit from burning out too quickly. The steadiness is more needful to be looked after just now than the enthusiasm. The present day is one of very stirring "movements and conventions" and many other methods of stimulating Christians to intense activity and zeal. Unless they have beneath them a strong foundation of devotion and an immovable steadfastness, they will either wear themselves out very quickly or merely create a morbid appetite which will be stimulated and satisfied only by something more and more of their kind.

The Apostle saw this need. In urging upon Timothy the duties involved in his ministry and in becoming recognition of his opportunities, he laid special stress upon the injunction, "Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned." He wished Timothy to keep ever in mind the fundamental principles upon which his work must be based, if he would succeed in it, and above all the relation of God's Word to that work. In all his activity he must never get away from the Bible, the sole authority and the only rule of faith and conduct. The fact that his mother and grandmother had taught him this word is especially emphasized and is given as a reason, were there no other, why he should hold the more tenaciously to it. This direction, by the way, bears very plainly upon present problems and shows how absurd and unreasonable is the notion that to be progressive one must necessarily get beyond the methods and principles of a past generation of Christians. Diversity of application may be desirable and helpful, but it must not be forgotten that it is the same old truth to be applied all the time.

Paul recognized this principle again in his practical conclusion from the victory which Christ gives believers over death and the grave, and from the glorious hope of the believer in immortality and blessedness in the resurrection life. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be moneys, and how much, shall be included in the reports of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." The certainty of God's keeping His word and doing His part should provoke every believer to a steadfast endeavor to produce the richest fruits.

THE ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS.

At the close of March, every church session will make up its report of the year's work to be sent to the Presbytery. The question has been raised what ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work

We recall a statement made to us by the treasurer of one church, to the effect that he included in his report to the Presbytery only the moneys that had passed through his hands as treasurer. We had knowledge of the fact that several hundred dollars had been contributed by members of that church during the previous year to various forms of benevolent work, and that much of it had been sent to our own home or foreign mission committee, in the form of private contributions; and we called his attention to this fact. He did not think that such donations ought to be included in his report, and did not include them.

The impression that we have is that the Presbytery desires to know how much has been given to each of the causes of beneficence, in any form, by any of the members of the church during the year. Some men prefer to send their gifts direct to the treasurer of the General Assembly. Sometimes this is because they desire that it shall be applied to some particular purpose. Others make private donations for other reasons. We think they ought to be included in the church report. We now call attention to the subject at this time in order that the reports may be made complete.

There is a twofold benefit to be gained by attention to this. First, the members of the particular church are encouraged when they find that they have accomplished something. And the negligent members of that church, as they find that in comparison with their fellowmen they are falling behind, are stimulated to do more and better.

Secondly, to a certain extent the officers of the various churches compare their own work with that of their neighbor church. If the several beneficences are promptly and fully reported by it, they also receive a stimulus in their work.

We apprehend that in some congregations attention to these private benevolences would increase the reports perhaps ten per cent.

DEATH OF REV. ANGUS McDONALD, D. D.

In a friendship of thirty years, we never heard Dr. McDonald say an unkind or imprudent word, or do an unworthy deed. From the day when he was ordained pastor at Elizabethtown, Ky., in the later seventies, throughout his pastorates at Henderson, Ky., at Nashville and at Jackson, Tenn., he was ever the same gentle, helpful and effective pastor. One could not help loving him. And because men loved him, his gospel messages came to their hearts with special force.

When, on Wednesday last, the messengers of God bore away his spirit, he seems to have passed from earth to heaven without pain or suffering. He was alone—his son found him in his bathroom—and his death was so peaceful that none in the house were aware of his passing away. He was sixty-seven years old. His wife and son who survive, can look back upon his life, as do his friends, with unmingled thankfulness for the good he has done on earth.